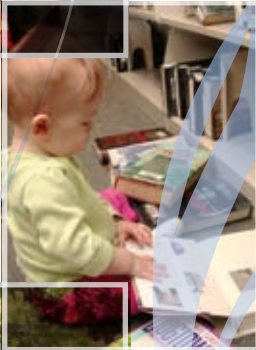


Moving Toward a Sustainable Eugene

The City of Eugene has a long history of helping to create a great place to live, work, and play. Many of the City's community-focused and internal initiatives include all three aspects of sustainability:

**social equity,
environmental health, and
economic prosperity.**

This brochure highlights some of the programs and practices integrated within the City to help achieve its vision of a more sustainable Eugene. We look forward to working with you and other partners in the community to fully realize this vision.



People + Planet + Prosperity

sustainability



City of Eugene

Growth Management With the establishment of the Urban Growth Boundary in 1992, and the adoption of the growth management policies by resolution in 1998, the City has encouraged the cultivation of quality neighborhoods with higher densities, more transportation options, convenient shopping, services, and other amenities. Other actions include:

- Emphasizing mixed-use development to reduce automobile use
- Working with community members to create infill compatibility standards that improve neighborhood character through design
- Implementing key components of TransPlan such as bikeway improvements

Transportation The City of Eugene encourages the use of healthy and active transportation by employees and the community as a whole. The City is working to limit single-use automobile trips to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Actions include:

- Creation and maintenance of:
 - nearly 100 miles of designated bicycle-friendly streets, most with bike lanes
 - 35 miles of off-street bike paths
 - 5 bike/pedestrian bridges across the Willamette River
- Partnerships with regional agencies to fund Commuter Solutions
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan, created with community support to make Eugene more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists
- Bus passes for City employees
- Ongoing replacement of City fleet with small hybrid vehicles. Ninety hybrids in use, resulting in a 10% reduction of CO₂ emissions since 2001

Affordable Housing Many people with low incomes cannot afford safe, adequate shelter. Providing affordable housing creates a foundation that benefits low-income households and the entire community. The City has enabled the creation and rehabilitation of thousands of homes that serve families, individuals, disabled persons, and persons with special needs. Initiatives include:

- Landbanking program that identifies and purchases suitable sites for future development of compact, energy-efficient housing near transit and services
- City financing for development of new rental housing
- Rehabilitation loans and grants for low-income rental and owner-occupied units
- Downpayment assistance for first-time homebuyers
- Hundreds of affordable units created in partnership with area developers. Recent projects, including WestTown on 8th and Turtle Creek apartments, incorporate many green building features to minimize energy costs
- Grants to very low-income people for emergency home repairs and accessibility improvements
- Rental Housing Code established in 2004 ensures basic habitability standards

Ending Homelessness The social, economic, and environmental impacts of homelessness affect the entire community. Ninety-five percent of homeless people who receive services during the year have roots in our community. The City is working to address this issue, and continues in its effort to meet the most basic needs of local residents.

- Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee was created in 2007, and in 2008 recommended funding approaches to address housing and homelessness
- Project Homeless Connect has provided valuable services to over 1,000 of the community's homeless each year while engaging and educating the community





Human Rights and Services The City seeks ways to ensure that all members of the community have equal access to opportunities and resources.

- The City’s Human Rights Commission works to promote inclusiveness, justice and equity
- The Human Rights City project is exploring ways that the City can implement international human rights standards within the community
- The City’s Diversity Manager works to build an inclusive, respectful work environment through staff training and recruitment and retention of diverse staff
- “Paso a Paso” program provides advocacy and translation services at Municipal Court
- Eugene Police Auditor protects the rights of community members and supports the Civilian Review Board, a panel of volunteers who provide input into the fairness and diligence of police investigations
- The CAHOOTS program offers mental health and crisis intervention through a collaboration between the Eugene Police department and the White Bird Clinic

Public Library The Eugene Library provides free access to ideas, information, and entertainment for all ages and walks of life. Through the library, residents are able to share a wealth of resources in print, media, and online.

- Over 400,000 books, movies, and music CDs to borrow for free
- More than 1,000 free events each year that support literacy
- Free computer and Internet access
- Adaptive technology including braille printer and audio books
- Access to resources for all – including the homeless – through an innovative library card issue process

Cultural Activities With the strong support of the community, the City of Eugene has achieved recognition for our many cultural programs. City actions reflect the belief that the arts should enrich the lives of everyone.

- Free summer concert series in City parks
- Free noon events in the lobby of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts eight months a year
- Assistance for hearing-impaired patrons of the Hult Center
- Seven Hult Center Resident Companies: Eugene Ballet, Eugene Concert Choir, Eugene Opera, Eugene Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival, Oregon Mozart Players, and Shedd Institute

Recreation The City offers a large variety of recreation activities that ensure everyone is included regardless of age, ability, or income. The City’s recreation services foster a sense of community and well-being.

- Nearly \$100,000 is available each year for program scholarships
- “Fun-For-All” summer playground program provides fun and a free lunch to nearly 20,000 children annually
- Adaptive recreation staff create programs and offer services for people with disabilities
- “40 Developmental Assets” are used as a foundation for all recreation programs to create a positive, supportive environment for youth
- Eugene Police offer youth outreach programs, including the Police Activities League (PAL) and the Safety Town vehicle safety education program



Business Development A thriving local economy is essential for the sustainability of our community. The City is dedicated to cultivating and recognizing sustainable businesses.

- City's Business Development Fund has loaned over \$15 million to nearly 200 Eugene businesses, many of which incorporate green practices. The fund has helped to create nearly 1,100 new jobs since 1984
- Mayor's "Bold Steps for Sustainability" Awards recognize business sustainability leadership
- 70-80% of all goods and services used by the City are purchased within Oregon
- Mayor's Sustainable Business Initiative Task Force analyzed ways to attract, retain, and grow sustainable businesses in the region
- By City resolution, the City is committed to support businesses that produce sustainable products and services

Green Building The City of Eugene incorporates green building features in both new and older facilities that benefit the environment through resource conservation and aid our economy by focusing on local procurement of supplies. By using environmentally friendly materials, green building also benefits the users' health.

- The Eugene Library, as well as the Santa Clara and Downtown fire stations, incorporate many green building features: solar water-heating, local materials, energy efficiency, and natural lighting
- Green building analyst position created in Planning and Development Department
- Sustainable Buildings Resolution passed in 2006
 - Applies U.S. Green Building Council's LEED criteria to all existing City buildings
 - Requires that new City buildings achieve at least a LEED Silver certification

Habitat Preservation Management of our land and waterways is necessary to ensure the health and well-being of all species. Habitat preservation provides ecosystems for critical species as well as exceptional recreation areas that can be enjoyed by all.

- South Ridgeline habitat study has engaged the community in establishing a preservation strategy
- West Eugene Wetlands Plan focuses on stream restoration, native planting, and recreation planning
- Delta Ponds Restoration project is being conducted with community support

Parks & Open Space Eugene takes pride in its many parks and open spaces. The City is dedicated to preserving these valuable resources for the enjoyment of the community and future generations.

- Over 3,000 acres of designated natural areas
- Pesticide-free parks program initiated in six neighborhood parks
- Parks & Open Space Bond, passed in 2006, approved \$27.5 million to purchase new parks and improve community access to nearby recreation opportunities
- Over 250 community garden plots available
- Weather-controlled irrigation minimizes water use at 74 area parks
- The City maintains an urban forest of over 100,000 trees
- Integrated Pest Management strategy implemented since the early 1980s

Water Quality Management Efficient use of water and stormwater education are key components of the City’s water management strategy, ensuring that we can enjoy a regional resource that supports residences, businesses, and agriculture for years to come.

- Programs like SPLASH! educate youth about the health and environmental impacts of water pollution
- Hundreds of City “Stream Team,” volunteers take part in river clean-ups, monitor species activity, and plant native trees and shrubs
- “Fish Friendly” car wash kits are provided cost-free by the City for fundraising events
- Stormwater Basin Master Plan studies methods for evaluating flood control and water quality
- Water Conservation Plan adopted in 2006 preserves wetland corridors and habitat
- Stormwater design standards encourage planting vegetation and harvesting rainwater for new developments
- Fire stations use switchable drains, eliminating water contamination from equipment washing

Energy Management The City uses many different approaches to improving energy efficiency in City facilities. This strategy results in fewer energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, as well as significant financial savings of \$1.7 million since 1994.

- Capture of 80% of the methane produced at the Eugene/Springfield wastewater facility provides 50% of the plant’s energy needs. This process has offset nearly 2,500 metric tons of CO₂ emissions since 1999
- City facilities use 25% renewable EWEB greenpower for their internal energy needs
- LED traffic lights conserve energy and require less maintenance
- Energy conservation training for City staff

Recycling Eugene’s residential recycling rate of 54% continues to be one of the highest in the country. A number of programs have been created to make recycling and yard debris collection simple and cost-effective for both businesses and households.

- Leaf recycling program generated 16,300 cubic yards of compost in 2007
- “Green Schools” program helps local schools to establish waste reduction programs
- The City has a comprehensive internal recycling program including concrete, asphalt, electronics, paper, glass, metal and plastic materials
- Recycling toolkits are available from the City for events and are used at Eugene’s Saturday Market
- The City uses 100% post-consumer recycled paper for all its printing

What’s Next?

Climate Change and Rising Energy Prices

The City is analyzing how to best address the growing concerns of climate change and energy price increases, and potential supply fluctuations. These issues affect our community socially, environmentally, and economically.

- Both the community and internal City greenhouse gas inventories have been completed. Next steps include setting targets and then creating and implementing a strategy to decrease emissions and adapt to change
- The City’s Sustainability Commission plays an important role in addressing these issues
- Sustainable procurement policy is being developed



Find out more: www.eugene-or.gov/sustainability

Our Partners

Achieving a sustainable community requires a broad range of support and action. We are fortunate in Eugene to have many partners working cooperatively to help create a more sustainable community, including:

Lane Transit District (LTD)

Public transit and the development of transportation options provide a foundation for a sustainable community. In our region, where the majority of greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation sources, Lane Transit District and the regional Commuter Solutions program provide innovative programs and services that have the ability to immediately affect our region's air quality, traffic congestion, and vehicle miles traveled.

What LTD is doing:

- An extensive network of public transit routes provide service with high ridership
- Innovative, new transit services including the EmX bus, Breeze shuttle, and LTD Event Services, have increased the number of new riders in the Eugene-Springfield area by 30% over the past three years
- Creative programs including Group Bus Pass and Student Transit Pass also contribute to a growing ridership
- The regional carpool matching system and vanpool development provide alternative transport options
- Investments in hybrid propulsion system, testing of biofuels and effective internal practices establish LTD commitment
- Find out more at www.ltd.org

Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)

A citizen-owned utility since 1911, EWEB is committed to helping its customers conserve energy and water. EWEB's energy policy places conservation as the top priority for meeting the growing need for electricity. Wind, geothermal, and other renewable energy resources are the preferred sources of new power generation. Nearly 95 percent of the utility's electricity is free from greenhouse gas emissions.

What EWEB is doing:

- "Greenpower" gives customers the option of supporting EWEB's renewable energy projects
- Residential customers can receive zero-interest loans for weatherization and energy-efficient appliance rebates

- Businesses and other non-residential customers can obtain financial assistance to install energy-efficient equipment
- Financial incentives are available for installing solar power and solar hot water systems
- EWEB promotes water conservation with the "Green Grass Gauge," a free tool that manages outdoor water consumption
- Find out more at www.eweb.org

Lane County Waste Management Division

Lane County government's Waste Management Division provides residents with a number of services through a network of 16 public recycling and disposal sites and the Short Mountain Landfill. Waste reduction and recycling programs encourage businesses and citizens to conserve resources and prevent waste. Special and Hazardous Waste programs allow environmentally responsible management of hazardous wastes and the minimization of risks to our future community.

What Waste Management is doing:

- Methane capture at the Short Mountain Landfill produces enough electricity daily to power approximately 1,200 homes. This facility helps to reduce greenhouse gas generation by reducing methane emissions and by producing renewable power for the community
- Recycling services offered at all disposal transfer sites allow citizens to recycle 20 types of materials
- In addition to the basics of paper, metal, cans and glass, sites offer opportunities to recycle motor oil, propane tanks and plastic bags
- Electronics Recycling Program provides a safe disposal option that is free or low cost
- The Household Hazardous Waste Program provides a safe disposal option that is free for residents and low cost for businesses. Over 5,000 households made use of our facility last year
- Find out more at www.lanegovonline.com/pw_wmd



City of Eugene
Office of Sustainability
(541) 682-5017
[www.eugene-or.gov/
sustainability](http://www.eugene-or.gov/sustainability)